

INTIMATIONS

BROWN, JONES & CO.
DEALERS IN
AMERICAN AND ITALIAN MARBLE
AND HONGKONG GRANITE
CEMETERY MEMORIALS.

Designs and Prices on application.
Office, 47, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL. [2704]

THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY
FOR
CHINA, JAPAN, CORIA, INDIA, CHINA,
STRAITS, NETHERLANDS, INDIA,
SIAM, PHILIPPINES, BORNEO, &c., &c.,
WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED
THE CHINA DIRECTORY
AND
THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY
AND HONG LEE FOR THE FAR EAST.
FOR
1897.

The THIRTIETH ANNUAL ISSUE,
which will be found as hitherto, more full and
accurate than its predecessors.
Royal Octavo. Complete with Maps and Plans
pp. 1,340, 87. Directory only, pp. 872, \$3.50.



HONGKONG DISPENSARY
has again received FRESH SUPPLIES OF

WHOLESALE CONFECTIONERY

AND

DELICIOUS SWEETS

of the HIGHEST QUALITY and PURITY

All Varieties of

CADBURY'S SPECIAL CREMES

PATE D'ABRIQOT, JORDAN ALMONDS

PRALINES.

DESSERT CHOCOLATES,

NOUGAT, FRUIT JELLIES,

ASSORTED TOFFEEES,

MIXED BONBONS.

&c., &c., &c.

FRENCH

CONFECTIONERY AND CONSERVES

in Large Assortment

from the LEADING PARISIEN HOUSES.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW

YEAR CARDS

A very choice selection from the best sources.

All of tasteful and novel designs.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Established A.D. 1841.

Hongkong, 9th December, 1897. [282]

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, DECEMBER 24th, 1897.

This Times is to be congratulated on the

soundness of its views with reference to the

German occupation of Kiaochow, and on the

application it makes of the incident in a

consideration of our own policy in China.

Instead of wasting time in making remon-

strances at Peking, which would assuredly

have been met as usual by the innumerable

diplomatic devices of Chinese diplomacy, the

German landed a force in Kiaochow Bay.

The experiment, says the Times, is one which

we ourselves have tried on one or two oc-

casions, with results so excellent as com-

pared with any obtainable by diplomatic

negotiation at Peking that there is reason

to wonder why we do not always follow the

more effective method. After showing how

auto-foreign agents are fomented by the

literary or official class, the article pro-

ceeds:—"Consequently it is the local

"officials whom we ought always to hold

"responsible alike for actual outrage and

"for the gross infringement of treaty rights

"which goes on continuously and persist-

"ently. There is very little use in apply-

"ing to the central Government to enforce

"responsibility. It is comparatively little

"control of the local Governors, and that

"little it certainly will not waste on behalf

"of mere barbarians when its own demands

"call for all its efforts." Referring to com-

"mercial difficulties also the Times says:—

"The truth is that the central Government

"has not the power, even if it had the will,

"to make its promises effectual. The pro-

"ceeds of the taxes which threaten China

"trade do not go to Peking, and the officials

"in each province simply go upon the prin-

"ciple of taking all they can get. It is

"to these gentlemen that we must apply,

"with arguments that they can appreciate.

"Among those arguments gunboats occupy

"an important place."

While the existing decentralised system

of government exists it is obviously at the

seat of grievance that redress must be sought

if anything substantial is to be accomplished.

But, in view of recent events, the question

suggests itself whether the system of de-

centralisation can endure much longer. Will

not the Central Government be compelled

by considerations of simple self-preservation

to make its authority effective in the re-

moiest corner of the remotest province and

to effect such a reform in the administration

as will knit the Empire together and make

each portion contribute to the strength

of the whole, instead of allowing the

different provincial Governments each

intitude as to endanger the whole

State whenever a hot-headed official

or local magistrate takes it into his

head to foment anti-foreign disturbances?

If the present system continues the Empire

must fall to pieces from simple want of

cohesion. While there was little outside

pressure the standard ties between the

provinces sufficed to hold them together,

but they cannot suffice much longer unless

they be strengthened by a general reform

of the administration, the abolition of the

seigniorial system, and the centralisation of

authority. In any other country reform

might be anticipated, but in China it seems

almost hopeless, and in view of impending

changes, which will be none the less im-

portant if they are effected gradually instead

of suddenly, it behoves the British Govern-

ment to strengthen its position and be pre-

pared for all emergencies which may threaten

our commercial interests. The Times says

it took the Foreign Office a very long time

to understand that China is not a highly-

organised State after the European model

and expresses a doubt whether the miscon-

ception does not still linger in official

mind. Dr. DILLON, in a recent article in

the Contemporary, referring to the

course of events in the Far East, also says

"our Foreign Office was meanwhile oc-

"cupied, like the God Daul which invoked by

"his worshippers, in talking, or pursuing,

"or in a journey,"—an expression which

very accurately hits off the attitude main-

tened until recently by our officials, and

especially by the Legation at Peking. It

will appear that there has recently been

an awakening. Let us hope that drowsiness

and obduracy to passing events may not

again set in.

The C. P. R. Co.'s steamer *Empress of China*

left Kobe for Hongkong on the 23rd inst.,

and is expected to arrive here on the 25th

inst.

The steamer *Imani Maru* (Dombay Line)

left Kobe for Hongkong on the 23rd inst.,

and is expected to arrive here on the 25th

inst.

The British steamer *Wangong*, which arrived

yesterday from Singapore, reports that on the

22nd she passed a damaged junk at

anchor in 130 fms. long and 100 fms. wide,

and refused to leave her, but wanted to be

towed to Hongkong.

See John Brampton, senior Assistant Under-

Secretary of State for the Colonies, who has

retired from the service, was on 12th Nov. ac-

companied a farewell dinner at the Hotel Windsor

by a number of his past and present colleagues

at the Colonial Office. Sir John, who was

in the office for 25 years, had been in the

Colonial Office since 1878, and after

travelling various offices in Queensland and Hong-

kong, became Assistant Under-Secretary of

State in 1876.

We hear that, on the last trip of the Spanish

mail steamer *Elcano* to Manila, the vessel was

detained for special services to the north of

Manila, where it was detained for several

days, and on the day of coming out, discharged only

her "twelve dead" cargo, and proceeded north to

fetch over 1,000 "volunteers," recently enrolled

in the Philippines, and who were to be

sent to the battle of the Manila river. The

mail steamer *Elcano* was a few years ago

stationed at Singapore in charge of H.M.S.

Redoubt.—Free Press.

Messrs. Wm. G. Hale & Co., in their circular

dated Saigon, 11th December, say:—"Our

firm has already appeared in parcels of

10,000 pieces daily, and we do not look

forward to the occasion of the Chinese

Contract for Japan, January to March delivery,

which has been made to the extent of 400,000

pieces. For Europe, at least 50,000 tons have

been ordered. Japan, but there seems to

be a great deal of uncertainty in any case, do

not compare well with those of Burma. At

the close, prices for new grain are somewhat

inclined to weaken, as demand is slack for the

year, but there is a strong possibility of a

recovery to a rather high level, as soon as

the market is cleared of the requirements of

contracts for next year. We quote for February

March delivery No. 2 White steers milled

(round) \$2.80, 10 per cent. cargo \$2.35, 20 per

cent. cargo \$2.27, first cost per pair of 134 lbs.

gross English without duty or any other charges.

Freight is charged at 10 cents per ton, and

insurance at 10 cents per ton. The contract

for Japan, 14th to 16th inst., 14 cents per ton.

Saigon was on 11th Dec. the 5th Decem-

ber to the 12th December the ceremony being

the visit of the Emperor of Annam and

the King of Cambodia. The *Corriere*

de Saigon gave a long account of the

ceremony, which was a very large scale.

The *Corriere* visited the ceremony, and gave

the greatest enthusiasm wherever they went, the

crowds in the streets being at all times very

large indeed. The first steamer *Leviathan* was

at the ceremony, and the King of Cambodia

and a description given of the interior of

the boat the arrangements were evidently of a

most luxurious description. Magnificent

ornaments adorned the stern, while the

smoking room, which was converted into a

dining room, was transformed into a

strikingly handsome apartment. The toilet

was of massive gold, the combs and brushes were

of gold and set with emeralds, diamonds, and

rubies of the choicest workmanship. Even His

Majesty's walking sticks were adorned with

precious stones, while in various parts of the

room were rare pieces of gold and silver, his

jewelry particularly being very extensive and

costly.

The annual installation meeting of Victoria

Lodge No. 1025, was held on Wednesday

evening, 18th inst., at the Masonic Hall, 1025

St. John's Street. The ceremony was

conducted by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

shipful Master of the Lodge, was

presented by the Master of the Lodge, who

was duly proclaimed. Bro. G. Ballou, the Wor-

COMMERCIAL.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. Thursday, 28th December. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11	
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½	
Bank Bills, at 90 days' sight	1/11½	
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/12	
Credit, at 4 months' sight	2/00	
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/00	
ON CALCUTTA.—		
Bank Bills, on demand	2/46	
Credit, at 4 months' sight	2/51	
GIMMAYAT—		
On demand	1/09½	
ON NEW YORK.—		
Bank, on demand	47½	
Credit, 60 days' sight	48½	
ON HONGKONG.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	150½	
Bank, on demand	151	
ON SINGAPORE.—		
Telegraphic Transfer	150½	
Bank, on demand	151	
ON SHANGHAI.—		
Bank, at sight	74	
Treasury, 90 days' sight	74½	
ON YOKOHAMA.—		
On demand	3¼ pm.	
ON BATAVIA.—		
On demand	5¼ pm.	
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate		40/4
GOLD LEAF, 100 flus. per towa		£2/50

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

COMPANY.		LAST UP.	QUOTATIONS.
			(1845, unless noted.)
Hongkong & P&O.....		116	per cent., buyers
China & Japan, per cent.....		25	nominat.
Do. ordinary		105	nominat.
Do. deferred		25	per cent., buyers
Natl. Bank of China		82	£22
R. Shans		21	£23, buyers
Foreign Share		21	£25
Bell's Abasco E. & A. Co.....		\$19	\$87½, sellers
Melville, Moore & Co.....		\$100	\$107½, sellers
Kwai Sang			
Cotton Mills—			
Poo	Tin. 100		Tin. 1-0
Hongkong	£20		\$37, sales
International	Tin. 100		Tin. 1-0
Luen Kwong Mao	Tin. 100		Tin. 1 03
Fayee	Tin. 50		Tin. 60
Yokohama	Tin. 100		Tin. 60
Daily Cycle	£2		£3
Penwick & Co., Geo.	£25		£20
Revan Islami Cement	\$10		\$70, sal. & buyers
Do. Long Len	\$10		\$12, sal. & buyers
H. & C. Maltery	\$50		\$50
Hongkong & C. Gas	210		\$120
Hongkong Electric	\$100		\$110, sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100		\$112, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50		\$50

W. C. Ward & G.	\$20	380	sales & buyers
Longkong Hotel	\$50	\$170	
W. & W. Canton	\$125	220	1st. prem., \$400, buyers
W. C. W.	\$50	\$1674	cellars
China Fire	\$20	\$163	
China Traders	\$25	\$70	
Longkong Hotel	\$25	\$170	
North-China	\$25	12	108, cellars
Strait	\$20	\$17	cellars
Union	\$25	\$270	cellars
Argentine	\$20	\$150	cellars
and Building			
Longkong Land Inc.	\$30	\$74	
Luxury Route	\$30	\$33	cellars
Kowloon Land & J.	\$30		
West Point Building	\$40	\$114	
Luxury Sugar	\$100	\$35	cellars
W. C. W.			
Charlottesville	\$65.00	\$165	buyers
G. Est. & O'gonian	\$5	\$5	cellars
Do.	\$24	\$3	sales & cellars
Jelebu	\$24	\$2	cellars
New Raimond	\$1	\$1.40	cellars
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.00	cellars
Oliver & Mines	\$2	\$2	cellars
Do. H.	\$2	\$2	cellars
Panjoon	\$2	\$5.00	cum. call.
Do. Preference	\$1	\$1.20	cellars
Do. Preference	\$2n.	\$2	cellars
New Ansoy Dock	\$10	\$18	cellars
Partnership Coys.			
China and Manila	\$50	\$76	cellars
China Mutin	\$50	\$76	cellars
Do. Preference	\$20	\$7	10c. buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$30	\$57	buyers
London and N.	\$20	\$57	cellars
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$11	cellars
Lebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5	cellars
Do.	\$2	\$2	cellars
United Shipping			

[illegible][illegible]

	Previous day at p.m.	On date at 10 a.m.	On date at 4 p.m.
Barometer	99.88	99.76	99.50
Temperature	61	68	67
Humidity	67	59	51
Direction of wind	ESE	S	N
" " force	4	5	2
Cloudy	C	O	C
Mile			
Highest open air temperature on the 22nd			68

[illegible]

